

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

REF: STATE 058399

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS (NENNO & LITTELL) MET TODAY (MARCH 25) WITH DR. GERDA HAAK, SECTION LEADER OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE RE ADAMS LOAN REQUESTS. WHILE UNABLE TO MEET SOME OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS, GDR AUTHORITIES ABVIOUSLY MAKING EFFORT TO BE FORTHCOMING.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THE DESIRED PORTRAIT OF ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT BY THE 19TH CENTURY PAINTER WEITSCH, IS IN BAD CONDITION AND CANNOT BE LENT OUT OR SHIPPED FOR THIS REASON. HOWEVER, ANY OR ALL OF FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE HUMBOLDT PORTRAITS ARE AVAILABLE;

A. COPPERPLATE ENGRAVING BY FRIEDHOF DONE IN 1808 FROM THE WEITSCH PORTRAIT-51X 37,5 CM.

B. LITHOGRAPH FROM WINCKELMANN & SONS PRESS DONE IN FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY-48, 3 X 36 CM.

C. COPPERPLATE ENGRAVING BY SCHROEDER-BOLLINGER DONE IN 1798- 15, 5 X 9,7 CM

D. COPPERPLATE ENGRAVING BY KRUEGER-BOLT DONE IN 1829- 21,1X15,6 CM.

E. COPPERPLATE ENGRAVING BY TARDIEU AFTER STEUBEN DONE IN FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY- 17, 8 X10,6 CM.

F. LITHOGRAPH BY BARDTENSCHLAGER COLOR PRESS AFTER A HILDEBRANDT WATER COLOR OF VON HUMBOLDT IN HIS
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WORK ROOM AT ORIENBURGER STR. DONE IN 1848-67/- 25,4X36 CM.

G. LITHOGRAPH BY BOILLY DONE IN 1821 (NO SIZE GIVEN).

H. LITHOGRAPH BY WILDT, COLORED BY BEGAS, DONE IN
FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY- 59,4 X 47,7 CM.

I. ETCHING BY GERARD, PRINTED BY DENOYERS, PARIS
IN FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY- 29,5X23,2 CM.

3. DR. HAAK STATED THAT NO OTHER HUMBOLDT PORTRAITS WERE AVAIL-
ABLE AND ASKED THAT SELECTION OF THE DESIRED ITEMS FROM THE
ABOVE LIST BE MADE ASAP, PREFERABLY BY ADAMS IN PERSON, AND
OTHERWISE FROM PICTURES OF THE PORTRAITS, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN
THE MAERKISCHE MUSEUM IN BERLIN. TO FACILITATE SELECTION,
AND APPOINTMENT WAS MADE FOR LITTELL TO VISIT THE MUSEUM TUESDAY
MORNING, APRIL 1, TO MAKE SNAPSHOTS FOR SUBMISSION TO ADAMS.

4. THE DESIRED STATUE OF DIANA IN THE GOTHA MUSEUM, ACCORDING
TO DR HAAK, SURPRISINGLY TURNED OUT TO BE A PLASTER CAST,
NOT MARBLE AS BELIEVED, AND CONSEQUENTLY, CANNOT BE TRANSPORTED.
MOREOVER, ONE FOOT IS ALREADY DETERIORATING AND, PER DR HAAK,
THE STATUE WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EXHIBITATION IF IT COULD BE
SHIPPED.

5. RE THE LOANS ADAMS REQUESTED FOR THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM, DR. HAAK STATED THE FOLLOWING;

A. THE PAINTINGS BY HILDEBRANDT AND BELLERMANN CAN-
NOT BE LOANED OUT.

B. THE RHINOCEROS HORN VASE PORTRAYING THE FOUR CON-
TINENTS IS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN, BUT IS CRACKED AND MUST
BE RESTORED AND A SPECIAL CASE CONSTRUCTED FOR SAFE
TRANSPORT. DR HAAK REQUESTS SOONEST ADVICE FROM ADAMS
RE WILLINGNESS TO FUND COSTS OF RESTORATION AND CASE
CONSTRUCTION. SHE WILL SUPPLY A COST ESTIMATE NEXT
WEEK, WHICH THE EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TELEGRAPHICALLY.

6 DR HAAK EXPRESSED REGRET RE INABILITY TO MEET FULLY
ADAMS' REQUESTS, BUT HOPES SUBSTITUTE OFFERINGS WILL SUF-
FICE. SHE POINTED OUT THAT SELECTION OF HUMBOLDT PORTRAITS
OFFERED SPANS HIS CREATIVE LIFETIME, FROM HOUTH TO OLD AGE.COOPER

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